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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/989,563	11/19/2001	Joseph C. Sher	MICRON.113C1	2553
20995 7590 03/31/2008 KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP 2040 MAIN STREET FOURTEENTH FLOOR IRVINE, CA 92614				
EXAMINER				
TRA, ANH QUAN				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2816				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/31/2008		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

jcartee@kmob.com
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Office Action Summary**Application No.**

09/989,563

Applicant(s)

SHER ET AL.

Examiner

QUAN TRA

Art Unit

2816

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/2/08.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16, 25 and 30-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16, 25 and 30-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed 1/4/08. A new ground of rejection is introduced as necessitated by amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 1-16, 25 and 30-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claim 1 recites that "the voltage regulator configured to clamp either the test supply voltage or the operational supply voltage". The "clamp" limitation is not enabled because diodes 323-327 in figure 3 are just for increasing or decreasing voltage at node 335, not for clamping VCCP, see paragraph [0031]. As understood, the voltage regulator generates signal VCCP_ON based on the comparison between VCCP and reference voltage 319.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-16, 25 and 30-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Javaniferd et al. (USP 5483486, Applicant submitted IDS) in view of Furumochi (USP 5473277, Applicant submitted IDS).

Insofar as understood to claim 1, Javanifrad et al. shows in figure 14 a circuit comprising: a reference circuit (316); a voltage regulator (318) electrically coupled to the reference circuit, the voltage regulator configured to clamp (compare) either the test supply voltage or the operational supply voltage and generate a first control signal (REG); a control circuit (323 in figure 15) coupled to the voltage regulator circuit which generates a second control signal responsive to the first control signal; a charge pump (325, 330, 332 in figure 15) which receives the second control signal from the control circuit, the charge pump generating the test supply voltage (Vout). Thus, figure 14 shows all limitations of the claim except for the reference having a plurality of voltage regulation devices and at least one bypass device connected to at least one of the plurality of voltage regulation devices. However, Furumochi's figure 5 shows a reference circuit having plurality of voltage regulation devices (T1-T4) and at least one bypass device (SW0) connected to at least one of the plurality of voltage regulation devices. Furumochi's circuit having the advantage of varying the voltage level at the output node (OUT). Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use Furumochi's figure for Javanifrad et al.'s reference circuit for the purpose of generating a variable reference voltage, therefore controlling the output level of the charge pump. Thus, with the combination, it is inherent that the at least one bypass device (SW0(TN4)) is activated following the certification of the semiconductor device to bypass the at least one of the plurality of voltage regulation devices from the clamp circuit to lower the clamping threshold of the clamp circuit, the voltage regulator

generating a third control signal responsive to the lowered clamping threshold of the clamp circuit to cause the charge pump to generate the operational supply voltage.

As to claim 2, Furumochi's figure 5 shows the plurality of voltage regulation devices comprise diodes.

As to claim 3, Furumochi's figure 5 shows the diodes are implemented through transistors.

As to claim 4, Furumochi's figure 5 further shows the bypass device comprising a fuse (FU) in series with a transistor (TN4).

As to claim 5, Furumochi's figure 5 shows bypass device is activated by blowing the fuse.

As to claim 6, with the combination of the prior arts, it is inherent that value of the operational supply voltage is reduced for each voltage regulation device bypassed.

As to claim 7, with the combination of the prior arts, it is inherent that the voltage regulation devices limit the maximum voltage output of the clamp circuit.

As to claim 8, with the combination of the prior arts, it is inherent that the first control signal reduces the test supply voltage when the voltage regulation devices limit the output of the clamp circuit.

As to claim 9, with the combination of the prior arts, it is inherent that the second control signal reduces the operational supply voltage when the non-bypassed voltage regulation devices (T1, T2..) limit the output of the clamp circuit.

Claims 10-16 and 25 recite similar limitations of claims 1-9. Therefore, they are rejected for the same reasons (see further in figure 4).

As to claims 30-34, adjustable voltage divider is well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use a switch to control the dividing ratio of the divider circuit 317 for the purpose of having more flexibility to select a desired output value.

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to QUAN TRA whose telephone number is (571)272-1755. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew N. Richards can be reached on (571) 272-1736. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9318 for regular communications and 703-872-9319 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 2816

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-1650.

/QUAN TRA/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2816